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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY RELEVANT ORGANS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES UNDER THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

The following summary has been prepared by the secretariat based on the latest contribution received from the World Meteorological Organization. The full text of the contribution is available on the Convention web site (www.unccd.de).

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World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The fight against drought and desertification has a high priority in long-term plans of WMO, particularly under the Agricultural Meteorology Programme, the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme. Furthermore, WMO continues to involve actively the national, subregional and regional meteorological and hydrological services in: (a) strengthening systematic observation, exchange and analysis of data; (b) developing and improving long-term strategies to promote meteorological and hydrological activities that contribute to better monitoring of droughts; (c) developing and promoting the use of medium- and long-range weather forecasts; (d) assisting in the transfer of knowledge and technology; and (e) intensifying research on the interactions between climate, the hydrological regime and desertification.

Since the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, WMO has carried out a number of activities supporting the implementation of the UNCCD. These include support to: (a) the Regional AGRHYMET Centre in Niamey and the AGRHYMET programme for countries members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel; (b) the drought monitoring centres in Nairobi and in Harare; (c) the joint project with the Southern African Transport and Communication Commission (SATCC) to strengthen the capabilities of the Southern African Development Community drought monitoring centre in Harare; (d) the UNCCD secretariat, through the financial assistance provided for the preparation of national reports by the affected African countries.

WMO had implemented a number of projects dealing with drought and desertification. These relate to: (a) improving national climate data management strategies in African countries affected by desertification; (b) development of a regional strategy for enhanced meteorological applications in southern Africa; (c) sustainable generation and application of climate information products and services in eastern Africa; and (d) regional climate forecasting for the greater Horn of Africa, based at the drought monitoring centre in Nairobi. WMO is a partner in the consortium headed by the United Nations Environment Programme to undertake the survey and evaluation of the relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies. WMO also organized and participated in a number of technical workshops, mainly in African countries.

The 13th World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, May 1999) expressed its support for continuing collaboration with the UNCCD, including the provision of appropriate scientific and technical support. The Congress also: (a) urged member countries to continue to strengthen their activities relating to research, training and capacity-building, collection and exchange of observational data, early warning, preparedness and public awareness; (b) requested the Secretary-General to encourage WMO regional meteorological training centres to include in their programmes subjects dealing with drought and desertification, monitoring and early warning, preparedness and mitigation strategies; (c) stressed the necessity of enhancing climate monitoring networks in the fight against desertification; and (d) requested the

Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, to draw the attention of donors to the inadequacy of the present networks for climate and desertification monitoring due to the lack of appropriate financial support.